

# CHARGES OF GRAFT AND NEGLECT HIT HARLEM HOSPITAL

Secret Inquiry Made of Affidavits Accusing Attaches of Institution.

## MAYOR ORDERED PROBE

Negro Residents Specially Say They Are Victims of Mistreatment.

## ASK DOCTOR OF OWN RACE

Women Tell of Being Held Up for Money and Cite Instances of Neglect.

It was learned yesterday that Commissioner of Accounts David Hirschfeld and Assistant District Attorney Ferdinand G. Morton are conducting an inquiry into charges of graft, ill treatment and neglect which have been made in affidavits for the past several months by nurses and orderlies attached to Harlem Hospital, Lenox avenues and 138th street.

The inquiry, which Commissioner Hirschfeld began a few days ago by holding a secret hearing in the hospital and questioning members of the staff, has been ordered by the Mayor as a result of protests from residents of the negro settlement in Harlem, who charge they have been victimized or mistreated in the hospital and are urging appointments to the board of their own race to the medical and surgical boards of the institution.

It was learned yesterday that some of the affidavits submitted to Commissioner Hirschfeld to the District Attorney by a committee including Alderman George W. Harris of 135 West 135th street and Dr. Allen B. Graves of 292 West 137th street, of the Manhattan Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association, are of a startling nature.

One made by Miss Helen Heldt of 135 West 140th street charges that Miss Heldt called at the hospital on December 5, 1920, and asked that an ambulance be sent to her address for a Mrs. Robinson. An interne is alleged to have replied that the ambulance could not be sent out because it was Sunday.

### Paid \$10 for Ambulance.

The affidavit charges that on payment of \$10 to the interne he caused an ambulance to be sent for Mrs. Robinson, who later reported that she had paid money to give to nurses, and obtained \$13 for this purpose, saying she could not get proper attention otherwise. Mrs. Robinson died December 9 in the hospital.

In another affidavit Bernard Duval of 135 West 140th street charges that while undergoing treatment for rupture he was forced to pay \$65. It is alleged that \$10 went to an interne, who arranged for his operation, \$15 to orderlies and \$40 to nurses.

When a reporter for THE NEW YORK HERALD made inquiries in the hospital yesterday he was referred to the superintendent of nurses, who said she was not at liberty to discuss the case. Dr. George O'Hanlon, general medical superintendent of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, told the reporter that complaints had been lodged about the care of the trustees about six weeks ago, but that in most instances they had failed to name persons accused. In one case where a member of the hospital staff was specifically named as having taken graft, he said, the hospital officials had endeavored without success to get the complainant to visit the hospital and make an identification.

Alderman Harris told the reporter that the hearing held by Commissioner Hirschfeld dealt principally with the case of Allen Russell of 508 Lenox avenue, who charged that when he took his wife to the hospital in critical condition on February 19 she was at first refused admittance by some one who stated that the maternity ward was quarantined. In the midst of a row in which a policeman was called in and threatened Russell and his wife, it is asserted that a doctor made his appearance, and on learning of the woman's condition directed that she be admitted to the maternity ward, which was not quarantined.

### Mistreatment Charged.

Other affidavits charging mistreatment are signed by Sarah Benson of 254 West 138th street, Hazel Pinder of 112 West 137th street and Hayward J. Payne of 5 West 132d street. Mr. Payne accuses persons connected with the hospital of having neglected his eleven-year-old niece, who is suffering from the effects of a hypodermic needle which broke off and remained in her flesh. Hazel Pinder charges that one interne directed that her thirteen-month-old child be X-rayed because of an injury to her shoulder, but that when she presented the slip for the X-ray she was told the apparatus was broken, and that "besides, no one could take X-rays on a Monday." She says the interne afterward tore up the slip.

Alderman Harris said the appointment of negroes to the staff of the hospital would give the negroes confidence in the institution, which they have not got at the present time. "It is not a color question," he said, "it is a municipal problem. The colored people now go to the hospital as a last resort, because they anticipate discrimination. By postponing going to the hospital they often import other persons of the community to whom they may communicate their disease."

## TAFT ASSAILED AS ENEMY TO NEGRO

Interracial Committee Objects to Stand on Appointments.

The Interracial Committee of Philadelphia made public yesterday a pamphlet taking to task William Howard Taft for his recent statement that it would be a mistake for the Harding Administration to appoint negroes to public office south of the District of Columbia. In so doing, the committee says, "If Mr. Taft has not turned his face against the principles of justice and reason, he certainly gives aid and comfort to all the enemies of the colored man's progress in representation, while he fails to strengthen the hand of a single one of his friends."

The statement adds that "it seems to the negro and his friends that, instead of profiting by the drastic lessons of the great war and taking the highest ground for universal human justice and for real democracy in this land, Mr. Taft by implication condemns that stand in Theodore Roosevelt and has deliberately chosen to identify himself with the anti-bellum logic of slavery."

# FIRST SUIT IN YEARS AND HE MUST SPORT IT IN JAIL

Shannon Made a Bad Bargain When He Swapped His Panhandler's Rig So Pickpocket Could Get Out of Tombs Posing as Himself.

In exchange for a new suit of clothing, Thomas Shannon, convicted of panhandling, admitted yesterday in Tombs court that he had aided Fred Stern, an alleged pickpocket, to escape from Tombs prison Saturday afternoon. Shannon was to finish a two day "swing" Saturday, and Stern, who was waiting trial in Special Sessions, heard of it. At the morning exercise hour, Shannon said yesterday, Stern offered to give him the suit and to wear Shannon's ragged clothing if Shannon would give him the information necessary to carry out the escape. There was no offer of money or other consideration than the suit, but it had been a far day since Shannon had his last new suit, and this was a natty outfit, bought only a few days ago.

The clothing was exchanged while the prisoners were exercising, and then Shannon supplied Stern with details of his personal history, which he had given on entering the Tombs, Stern would have to answer these questions in order to assure the prison authorities he was authentic. Shannon went to Stern's cell and Stern remained in Shannon's when the rest hour was up and the doors were locked.

Soon a trusty went down the corridor, unlocked the door of Shannon's old cell, and told the inmate to report at the office for discharge. That was the last Shannon saw of Stern. According to Head Keeper Lazarus Levy, Stern answered the questions as to Shannon's past life correctly and was freed without incident.

An hour later Shannon, realizing what he had done, hammered on the cell door and demanded to be let out, explaining his identity. He was arraigned yesterday in Tombs court, where he pleaded guilty to aiding in the escape of a prisoner, and was held in \$3,500 bail for the Grand Jury, which means a delay of months before trial. He told Keeper Levy he didn't care much about his new suit, and he hadn't realized there might be a "kick" in Stern's proposal.

While the search for Miller continued yesterday without any marked success, it was learned that a problem that is troubling the prosecutors has to do with the possible guilt of the clients in many of the divorce actions which he is alleged to have engineered from his West Third Street headquarters.

Although all of the persons who have visited the District Attorney's office and Westchester county so far in connection with the case have placed all blame upon Miller, there is a feeling that in certain cases these persons must have known that the divorce he was selling were not being obtained in the legal way.

According to District Attorney Lee Parsons Davis of White Plains, and his assistant, W. A. Ferris, who began the investigation into Miller's "divorce mill," many of his clients were far from intelligent, and it was easy to impose upon them. When he furnished them with divorces without ever having taken them into a courtroom they were surprised, and some took it for granted that he was doing things in the proper manner.

In other instances, however, where Miller is alleged actually to have gone into court and obtained divorces upon the testimony of a staff of eleven whom he is alleged to have steadily employed, the prosecutors are inclined to believe that the clients must have had knowledge of what was going on.

As far as the prosecutors have been able to learn Miller's fees in these cases were not large. In fact, his clientele was composed chiefly of hardworking people with little ready money.

The twenty-two witnesses who have been summoned to appear before the Westchester County Grand Jury on Thursday to testify against Miller include not merely his clients, but persons who are alleged to have possessed a knowledge of his methods through close association with him. It is expected that more Grand Jury subpoenas will be issued before the inquiry begins and that upward of fifty persons may be asked to tell of their dealings with the missing man.

## MAN KILLED IN BRONX BY AN AUTOMOBILE

Mail Truck Driver Is Held in Death of Child.

While crossing Jackson avenue at 150th street, The Bronx, yesterday, Louis Roland, a butcher, of 527 East 147th street, was knocked down and killed by an automobile. The driver, Fred Dreyer, 690 Westchester avenue, was not held.

Alexander Hayes, 343 York street, Jersey City, was arrested yesterday on a charge of homicide. He was driver of a mail truck which on Saturday night struck and killed Angelina Zena, 7, in Jersey City. He denied knowing that he had struck the child.

A rear tire on a municipal bus operating in Church avenue, near East Third street, Brooklyn, blew out last night and, according to the police report, "dislodged the passengers from their seats." Mrs. Susan Widener, 156 Twelfth street, Brooklyn, was taken to Coney Island Hospital suffering from contusions of both legs. Miss Anna Gorman of Manhattan and Mrs. Roseline Grant, 123 Sixtieth street, Brooklyn, slightly hurt, went home.

## NEGRO'S EFFORTS TO SAVE LIFE FAIL

Victim Dies of Burns After Thrilling Rescue.

The heroic efforts of James Cross, negro porter of the Winter Garden Drug Store, at Broadway and Fifth street, who at the risk of his own life beat out flames which had caught the clothing of William Mathews, a drug store clerk, last Thursday, were proved yesterday to have been unavailing. Mathews died at Bellevue Hospital.

Cross was himself burned slightly, but he recovered. He found Mathews lying in a fifth floor store room, where the clerk had gone for some chemicals, and tried to beat out the flames. Mathews broke from him and got to a window, then tried to jump out. The negro held Mathews back, saving him from the fall, and at the same time succeeded despite the clerk's struggling in putting out the fire.

As escape by the stairs had been cut off Cross carried the clerk along a ledge while a great crowd watched from the street, and safely gained an adjoining window, there passing through a series of the stairs and street. Mathews lived at 215 West Fifty-sixth street.

## DOCTOR HELD IN \$10,000 BAIL

Dr. Simon H. Minden, 55 years old, of 230 East Sixty-ninth street, charged with suspicion of homicide, was arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Francis X. Manhouse in Manhattan Court and held in \$10,000 bail for examination on Thursday. He was alleged to have performed an illegal operation which resulted in the death of Mrs. Catherine Rogers, 32 years old, of 3458 Third avenue.

# TWO OF FAMILY HELD IN KILLING OF MRS. TROTTE

## Stepdaughter and Husband Arrested When Strap and Rope Are Found.

## MONEY FEUD ALLEGED

Victim Strangled and Cast Into Swamp After Redeeming Jewelry.

## WAGON TRACKS A CLUE

Belting and Cord Around Neck Same as in Home of Prisoners, Police Assert.

## Less than twelve hours after the body of a woman, beaten and strangled, had been found Saturday night in Cooper's pond, near Newtown Creek, Brooklyn, it was identified as that of Mrs. Catherine Trotte, widow of a well to do marble tile manufacturer, and the police had arrested her seventeen-year-old stepdaughter, Mrs. Caroline Verderosa, and the latter's husband, Luciano Verderosa. Both are charged with murder.

The Verderosas were arraigned before Magistrate Dale in Williamsburg police court and held without bail for hearing Wednesday. Both denied the charge.

Mrs. Trotte disappeared on March 3, and her son by a former husband, Joseph Vesuppi, reported the matter to the Bureau of Missing Persons of the Police Department. She was last seen in company with Mrs. Verderosa entering the Verderosa home at 73 Skillman avenue.

Shortly before this Mrs. Trotte, according to information obtained by Capt. Daniel J. Cary, had gone to the North Side Bank, where she cashed a check for \$400. With this money she went to the Provident Loan Association on Gramham avenue and redeemed about \$1,000 of jewelry, part of the estate of her husband. When last seen Mrs. Trotte had the jewelry in a small handbag. The police are searching for it.

It is understood that there had been a quarrel over the disposal of the estate of Rocco, Trotte, the slain woman's husband. Mrs. Trotte was said to have been the jewelry and about \$1,500 in cash he was the owner of the Trotte Marble Tile Works at 19 Jackson street. Wagon tracks leading from the pond where the body was found indicated it had been brought there. Luciano Verderosa is a contractor and has several wagons. The police are looking for one.

Mrs. Trotte's rings and jewelry were not disturbed and \$20 was found in the pocket of her dress.

Mrs. Trotte was married four years. She had several children by former marriages and Trotte had children besides Mrs. Verderosa. All of them were questioned by the police yesterday. Ever since the tile manufacturer's death, it appears, there has been a family row over the money.

Mrs. Trotte lived on Bay Ridge to 15 Jackson street, Greenpoint, that she might be near the marble works. On the day of her disappearance she went first to a butcher shop, then to the bank, then to the Provident Loan Society and finally to visit a friend, Carmine Marone, of 21 Union avenue, whence she went to her stepdaughter's home in Skillman avenue.

The body when discovered was partly decomposed. Two boys found it crossing the swamp on their way home and gave the alarm. Identification was made by Joseph Vesuppi, the woman's son.

## SAILOR, SUNK IN A BOG, SAVED AFTER 4 HOURS

Sinks to Armpits in Pralls Island Meadows.

While crossing the meadows on Pralls Island, Staten Island Sound, yesterday Thomas Mills, member of a crew of a shipping boat, vessel tied up to the island, fell into a bog and remained there for four hours, sunk to his armpits, before he was rescued. His feet appeared to be stuck in the mud, and when they touched the bottom of the hole, but he was unable to extricate himself. By the time members of the ship's crew reached him he was semi-conscious.

Mills waved his arms and shouted for almost two hours before an observer on the ship noticed his predicament. A small boat put out, but owing to the low tide could not get inshore, and the crew feared to try walking. Planes were obtained on the ship and used as an approach.

"Cooper Union is sixty years old and there is no institution in the world like it and none which gives a higher education," said Prof. Richards. "It becomes necessary either to curtail our educational work or obtain increased funds. To do the first would mean to disrupt an organization built up with care and effort and to lose teachers who would with difficulty be replaced."

## COOPER UNION ARRIVES JUST IN TIME

Rockefeller's \$150,000 to Be Incentive to Raise More.

A statement that John D. Rockefeller's offer of \$150,000 was "none too soon," and that Cooper Union will have to raise teachers' salaries and pay other higher costs for expansion if it is to keep pace with the development of similar institutions, was made yesterday by Prof. C. R. Richards, director of the Union. He said it was necessary to take action immediately on Mr. Rockefeller's gift, which is conditioned upon Cooper Union itself raising an additional \$250,000.

The memory of Alfred T. White, known as "Blacky's" greatest friend and benefactor, was honored yesterday at a meeting in the Academy of Music in Brooklyn. Educators, heads of charitable organizations, clergymen and others among Mr. White's personal friends were present.

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## MISS HILQUIT FALLS IN RIDE

Miss Lena Hilquit, of 214 Riverside drive, a daughter of Morris Hilquit, lawyer and Socialist leader, was thrown from a horse yesterday afternoon when the animal stumbled in Central Park. At her home it was stated that her injuries were not serious.

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# Such Perfect Days of Sunshine in Florida

## The Charming Occasional Table

## IN BELMAISON.

For the small house or apartment, that can play many roles is one of the most practical pieces of furniture of which a room can boast. For the small living-room, Belmaison has designed a Directoire tea-bench that may be used to hold magazines and cigarettes and do a hundred and one other things besides serve tea. This is made with a beautifully proportioned walnut base, carved with rosettes, and has a dark green marbleized top. Size 25x38x21 inches high. Price \$78.50.

A two-tier round table of light French walnut is a reproduction of an old design. This, too, is low and rather squat in its proportions, and has brass galleries around both upper and lower tiers. Size 24 inches in diameter, 18 inches high. Price \$157.50.

Another two-tier table of light French walnut is smaller and is made without the brass galleries. Size 21x18 inches. Price \$77.

A mahogany sofa-table has gatelegs and a drop leaf at either end. Size 24x60x29 inches high. Price \$65.

An interesting small three-tier walnut finished table, a reproduction of an Empire piece, has a wooden gallery that lets down at one of the long sides, with square or turned legs. Size 12x30x29 inches high. Price \$62.

An Adam console, that may be used as a sofa table, has typically Adam motifs carved on the legs. In American walnut, mahogany and walnut-finished birch.

Size 14½x59x35 inches high. Price \$125.

## French Blouses Exquisitely beaded

The collection of French beaded "costume" blouses now in the little French Blouse Shop are all reflections of the Parisienne's penchant for beads and filmy materials.

—over-blouses; —little tie-around blouses; —the more conventional suit blouses; —all ornamented with beads of porcelain, steel, crystal, wood and of glass made to look like dull rich metal; often combined with metal thread to give an unusually gorgeous en-crust effect.

A new blouse typical of the collection is illustrated. It is made with a LANVIN neckline, long over-blouse tunic confined at waist line with elastic. Sleeves are square, beautifully draped after the fashion called Viennese; in gray-blue embroidered with green and gold beads and midnight blue with terra cotta beads; \$39.50.

Another very smart over-blouse is in nasturtium color. Georgette crepe embroidered with "Rings of Saturn" motifs, in dull gold; \$34.50.

A gorgeous blouse of soft blue Georgette crepe is embroidered in crystal and gold beads and gold thread; \$119.

One of the newest blouses, also an over-blouse, with deep V neck and short sleeves, is of cafe-au-lait color Georgette crepe embroidered with crystal and gold, so that the whole effect is very bland, suggestive of Spring; \$75.

## Adorable Suits of wool jersey

So good we simply had to bring them over from England. And they have already received marked favor for little tots to wear during the spring (instead of coats).

The suits illustrated are only two of the several adorable models fashioned of light weight wool jersey, with high or soft roll collars, some with round necklines. Girls' skirts pleated or straight. Some models boast patch pockets.

Little boys' suits have tiny trousers; little girls' suits have bloomers.

In navy and French blue—scarlet, brown or white. \$7.95 to \$14.50.

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# IT is not big type and big talk in the newspapers—but the quality, fashion and fair price of the goods in the store which make value and give lasting satisfaction.

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY CHAIRS, \$40 each

## AU QUATRIEME

A collection of antique Italian chairs, of the type that may be used in almost any room in the house—in the dining-room, the hall, the drawing-room, and the bedroom—is shown today *Au Quatrieme*.

They are largely side chairs of walnut, with various types of backs. Some of them closely resemble English chairs, so that they may be used in a room with English furniture and chintzes. All of them are strong and practical for everyday use, in the modern home.